



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**ARMED ROBBERS SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR ROBBERY
OF DELTONA BRANCH OF BANCO POPULAR**

Orlando, Florida - Chief United States District Judge Patricia C. Fawsett today sentenced two Central Florida men to more than 10 years in federal prison for the armed robbery of a Volusia County branch of Banco Popular on the morning of May 28, 2003.

STEVE ABSALON, a 28 year-old resident of Orlando, and his co-defendant, **NICK ANZOIL BAUSSAN**, a 26 year-old resident of Altamonte Springs, previously had entered guilty pleas to the charges of armed bank robbery and carrying a firearm in relation to a crime of violence. Absalon must serve a term of imprisonment of 125 months; Baussan will be incarcerated for 135 months. The sentences also call for each man to serve a three-year period of supervised release, perform 75 hours of community service, and pay a special assessment of \$200.

According to the facts adopted by the Court at sentencing, Absalon and Baussan entered the Deltona branch of Banco Popular wearing nylon masks and carrying a .25 caliber semi-automatic pistol. Once inside the bank, Baussan and Absalon held

employees and customers at gunpoint, vaulted the teller counter and obtained \$4,446 in cash. As they fled the bank, however, the men dropped a plastic bag of currency and a backpack containing Baussan's mail and assorted personal items. Fingerprints found on the plastic bag matched Absalon. When law enforcement officers subsequently arrested the men, Absalon and Baussan confessed to having committed the robbery.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement . The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was investigated by the Daytona Beach Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Volusia County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.